Proposal for the Initiation of a New Instructional Program
Leading to the Minor in Comparative Literature

University of Oregon
College of Arts and Sciences
Comparative Literature Program

1. Program Overview

a. Proposed CIP number: 160104

b. Brief overview of proposed Comparative Literature (COLT) minor:

The Comparative Literature major attracts a diverse and academically strong group of students who are proficient in foreign languages. The major is interdisciplinary in nature, so that majors take not only Comparative Literature courses but also courses in foreign languages, literatures and cultures, and in other disciplines such as history, anthropology, political science, women’s studies, and others. We would like to make a Comparative Literature minor available so that students who are very interested in Comparative Literature and take many courses fulfilling the major, yet are for a number of reasons not able to major in Comparative Literature, nonetheless will be able to demonstrate their interest and expertise in the discipline by completing a Comparative Literature minor.

The minor would essentially be a subset of requirements for the major, consisting of seven courses: Comparative Literature 301, a required course for all majors that introduces students to the history of Comparative Literature and to literary theory; four COLT-prefix courses, of which only two could be lower-division; and two upper-division literature or film courses in the same subject area, which could be taught in Comparative Literature or in other departments. These two courses would be eligible to be taken abroad or away from the University of Oregon.

c. Since the minor is closely related to the major, it would not require any new resources and thus would be operational as soon as it is approved. There is already student interest in the Comparative Literature minor.

2. Purpose and Relationship of Proposed Program to the Institution’s Mission and Strategic Plan
a. The objectives of the Comparative Literature Minor would be to enlarge the group of students associated with the Comparative Literature Program and allow students who for various reasons cannot major in Comparative Literature the opportunity to demonstrate their familiarity with and expertise in the discipline.

b. The proposed program broadens opportunities for students who are interested in Comparative Literature among other areas of academic interest; it allows Comparative Literature to reach out to a broader base of undergraduate students and would bring more non-Comparative Literature majors into courses that specifically value the importance of the learning of foreign languages, literatures and cultures and of becoming familiar with literary and cultural theory.

c. Oregonians and citizens of all states are well-served by academic settings which require critical thinking and demand good communication skills, foster cultural understanding and investigate and respect historical and cultural differences among people.

3. Course of Study

a. Seven courses, each likely to be a 4-credit course, for a total of 28 credit hours; however, some credit variation occurs, especially in foreign-taught courses.

- COLT 301, “Approaches to Comparative Literature”
- Four COLT-prefix courses, of which no more than two may be lower-division
- Two upper-division literature or film courses in the same subject area. These can be courses taught in Comparative Literature or in other departments. These two courses are also eligible to be taken abroad or away from the University of Oregon

b. No specific new courses required.

c. n/a

d. Students with commitments in other fields will be able to become substantially involved in the study of the issues, ideas and theories addressed in Comparative Literature in a way which was not heretofore institutionally recognized.

4. Recruitment and Admission Requirements
a. It is certainly possible that the proposed program would draw students who otherwise would not come to the institution, because it adds to academic options at the institution, but it will primarily attract students who might otherwise not become as involved in Comparative Literature and will encourage them to take a substantial number of courses in the area.

b. No additional requirements.

c. No enrollment limitation.

5. Accreditation of the Program

a. n/a

b. n/a

c. n/a

6. Evidence of Need

a. The main evidence of need is that we frequently get questions about whether there is a Comparative Literature minor; in fact, right now we have a student who is already following our minor requirements in the hope of being able to officially receive credit for it. Some students realize they have a strong interest in Comparative Literature at a point that is too late in their undergraduate career for them to be majors, yet have enrolled in many courses in the subject, so we would like to be able to offer them the option of completing a minor.

b. As we have followed up on recent COLT graduates, we have found that they follow many different career paths, for which their reading, analytical, writing and language skills prepare them very effectively. We have a good record of placing majors into strong graduate programs such as Chicago and Irvine. We believe that COLT minors, who will have similar skills, will be similarly well-equipped for a variety of career paths.

c. We ordinarily have in the neighborhood of 35 majors; we would expect there to be approximately 10-15 minors. As our courses are academically demanding, we would expect minors to be as strong as our majors in their academic background.
d. Adding this minor will not place any additional burden on the program or the University, but it will broaden opportunities for students.

e. n/a

f. n/a

Outcomes

7. Program Evaluation

a. The main way to determine the effectiveness of the objectives would be to see how much interest there is in the minor.

b. n/a

8. Assessment of Student Learning

a. Student learning assessment will be similar to the major.

b. n/a

c. n/a

Integration of Efforts

9. Similar Programs in the State

a. According to the OUS website, only the University of Oregon has a Comparative Literature program.

b. Since the University of Oregon has the lone Comparative Literature program in the OUS system, there is unlikely to be any sharing of resources with other institutions in the system.

c. No impact on other institutions is expected.

Resources

10. Faculty
a. A complete listing of Comparative Literature appointed and affiliated faculty members, as well as their areas of research interest and a description of publications, is available at http://complit.uoregon.edu/directory/faculty.htm. Appointed faculty consist of Director Lisa Freinkel (English), Professor Kenneth Calhoon (Comparative Literature and Germanic Languages), Assistant Professors Jenifer Presto (Comparative Literature and Russian and East European Studies), Leah Middlebrook (Comparative Literature and Romance Languages) and Katya Hokanson (Comparative Literature). There are 43 affiliated faculty members in various departments.

b. No additional faculty members will be required.

c. No additional support staff will be required.

11. Reference sources

a. No additional reference sources are required.

b. No additional financial support required.

12. Facilities, Equipment, and Technology

a. No special equipment is required.

b. No additional support is required.

13. n/a

14. Budgetary Impact

a. No additional budget will be required. Minor based on existing courses.

b. No federal or grant funds required.

c. Since the minor depends entirely upon courses that also count for the major, there is no re-allocation of resources.